

Appl. No. 10/008,337
Amendment with Restriction Election
Reply to Office action of 6 March 2003

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REMARKS/DISCUSSION OF ISSUES

Claims 1-24 are pending in the application.

Applicant(s) respectfully request(s) the Examiner to acknowledge the claim for foreign priority and receipt of any certified copies of priority document(s) provided earlier.

The claims are amended for non-statutory reasons, to place them in standard U.S. patent practice format. No new matter is added.

The Office action restricts the invention to one of the following groups of claims:

- I. Claims 1-11, drawn to a method; and
- II. Claims 12-24, drawn to a device or apparatus.

In response, applicant(s) provisionally elect(s), with traverse, to prosecute the species of claim(s) 12-24.

Applicants' traversal is based at least on the fact that contrary to the assertion of the Office action, the claimed product cannot be made by another materially different process from the claimed method. The Office action asserts that "the product as claimed can be made by forming the connectors before providing electronic components." However, that method would also fall within the scope of the claimed method, since the claimed method does not specify the order in which the recited steps are performed. Since applicant's claimed method would necessarily produce applicant's claimed device, and applicant's claimed device cannot be made by another and materially different process, there is no basis for the restriction requirement under MPEP 806.05(f) or any statute. Accordingly, withdrawal of the restriction requirement is respectfully requested.


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Applicant(s) agree(s) to withdraw the nonelected claim(s) without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter thereof if the restriction requirement is not withdrawn. Applicant(s) reserve(s) the right to prosecute the subject matter of the canceled claim(s) in a divisional or other continuing application.

Examination of the application on its merits is now respectfully requested. If any points remain in issue that may best be resolved through a personal or telephonic interview, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,


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